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Getting Yard, Garden Ready for Winter

Winter is coming! Are you and your yard ready? The next month or so is an important time for getting your yard and garden plants prepared for a long slumber.

Certainly cleanup is on the top of the list. Besides just cleaning up leaves and plant parts, making notes of plant performance, location, and problems can help prepare for next season. This is especially helpful with vegetable plants, annuals, and perennial flower plantings. For perennials, allowing the dead plant material to remain until spring may help protect the crown of the plant, although if the bed is mulched later this fall it doesn’t really matter.

It’s best to wait awhile before mulching perennials and strawberries.

‘Garden’ continues on page 2

ECFE Fun Fall Field Trip

On Tuesday, September 27, 2005 two classes of Spanish speaking families from the Dayton’s Bluff Early Childhood Family Program took big yellow school buses on a ride through the countryside to the Afton Apple Orchard. The weather was sunny and warm and it was a beautiful day for 40 children ages birth to five and their mothers to get up close and personal with pigs, goats, a donkey, a llama and other farm animals, to play on the playground, to take a hay ride, and to “lift and twist” three Minnesota grown apples to bag and take home. They also brought apples back to school so they could cook apple crisp in their classes the following week and eat it with ice cream, another product that starts on a farm.

Field trips like these are rich educational experiences for city children who sometimes think produce begins its existence in the supermarket. Follow up activities at school broaden children’s knowledge of the world in which they live and support their language, math, science, social and emotional development to help them take full advantage of formal education when they begin elementary school.

Thanks to the Dayton’s Bluff Early Childhood Family Education Advisory Council for using their funds to underwrite special events to enrich the experiences of both English and Spanish speaking families.

Building a Culture of Peace

Display opening Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Refreshments and Peace Pole dedication, 5:30 p.m.

Metropolitan State University St. Paul Campus

Second floor Library and Learning Center

The display will be on view from November 2-18, coinciding with the university’s fourth annual civic engagement conference, Learning Beyond Borders: Engaging Students with the World at Home and Abroad, which will take place Nov. 10. The display brings together the ideas of hundreds of people and organizations dedicated to finding a lasting path to peace. It focuses on UN action areas for a culture of peace, and includes sections on barriers to peace, religions and peace, and introduces peace builders, some famous and some ordinary individuals who have made lasting contributions to peace efforts around the world.

Join us on November 2 at 5:30 to preview the display and dedicate Metropolitan State University’s new Peace Pole, bearing the message “May Peace Prevail on Earth,” and to sign the Manifesto 2000 pledge.

For more information, contact Rebecca Ryan, 651-793-1296 or Rebecca.Ryan@metrostate.edu

Building a Culture of Peace is co-sponsored by Soka-Gakkai International, The Center for Community-Based Learning, and the Library and Learning Center. Individuals with disabilities may request accommodations to access this program or event by calling Disability Services at 651-793-1540.
A Raisin in the Sun at Mounds Theatre

The second show of Starting Gate Productions’ “Wonder Season” is coming to the Mounds Theatre in November. Coming off the success of their first show, Godspell, Starting Gate Productions is pleased to present A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry.

On the brink of the civil rights movement, this compelling drama electrified both Black and White, and illuminated the experience of being a Negro in America.

This production is directed by Dawn Renee Jones and features the talents of Christopher Clark, Angela Dalton, Shawn Hamilton, Stephen Menya, Dale Fiehlstich, Artie Thompson, Adam Western, and Marcus Woodard.

Performances:
Three weeks only! November 4 - 19, 2005

Tickets: $18 general $16 students and seniors
For tickets call 651-645-3503 or visit www.startinggate.org

All performances are at the Mounds Theatre at 1029 Hudson Road.

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE AND BAKE SALE

Mark your calendars! HealthEast Care Center – Marian of Saint Paul is having their annual Holiday Boutique and Bake Sale on Friday, November 18, 2005, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This year’s boutique is going to be bigger and better than ever! There will be all sorts of handcrafted items and many different baked goods for sale by residents and the local community. You don’t want to miss out, so please stop by and have some fun shopping before the holiday rush. You’ll be glad you did.

For more information or if you would like to rent a table to sell your own items, call Jodi Auger at (651) 771-2914. Marian of Saint Paul is located at 200 Earl Street, across from Indian Mounds Park.

ADULT ATHLETICS

ADULT BASKETBALL
Registration begins October 1st. Games begin mid-November (men) and early-December (women).

Programs are offered for the following classifications: Men’s C, Women’s B/ C. Fees for 2004/2005: $380/8 games PLUS playoffs. Non-resident teams add $50.00/team.

ADULT BROOMBALL
Registration for broomball is November 1st - December 3rd. Games begin late-December or early-January. Programs are offered in the following classifications: Men’s B, C and D, Women’s: Class A/B and C Co-Rec: Class A/B, C and D. Fees for 2004/2005: $225/6 games Non-resident teams add $50.00/team.

Games are played at McMurray Parkway. Advance sale tickets are $5/PLUS playoffs. Non-resident tickets are $6/PLUS playoffs. Advance sale tickets are $5/PLUS playoffs.

ADULT HOOPS
Registration begins Monday, November 15th and closes Friday, December 9th, 2005. Programs are offered for the following classifications: Class A, Class B, Proposed fees for 2004/2005: $250.00 for resident teams $300.00 for non-resident teams (Single elimination playoffs included)

registration is required. For more information or to register, contact the Center for Community Based-Learning at 651-793-1285, or e-mail cbl.center@metrostate.edu.

HIGHLIGHTS:
Mu Daiko, taiko drumming group.
Doug McGill, of localman.org and The McGill Report, offers the keynote address at 1:00, panel response and discussion circle to follow.
Registration for the conference and reception is required. For more information or to register, contact the Center for Community Based-Learning at 651-793-1285, or e-mail cbl.center@metrostate.edu.

Senior Royalty
Men and women, age 55 and older are eligible to become candidates for the Senior Royalty Program. Three men and three ladies are selected as Royalty to reign during the Winter Carnival and throughout the year. All candidates participate in the Senior Royalty Coronation held on February 3 at the Landmark Center. If you would like to participate in a unique experience, meet new people, and have lots of fun at parades and other community events, call 651-232-1301.

Senior Royalty Fundraiser
The evening features entertainment including music and dancing, refreshments, and raffle items. This is a great opportunity to support the Senior Royalty Program. For information or to purchase tickets, which are $25 per person, contact the Recreation Center 744-2514.

The Golden Melody Makers will host a variety show, Thursday, November 4, 1:00-3:30pm at Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Parkway. Advance sale tickets are $5/ person. Door admission is $7. Call 651-266-6363 for information.

No Experience Required! No Commitment!!!
Just show up the last Thursday of every month at 6:00pm and tell us what we could be doing better. The next meeting will be Oct 29 at The District Council office: 798 East 7th Street, Saint Paul.

Please contact Recreation Center for more information: 651-793-3855.
Christmas is Coming

A Christmas Story is returning to the Mounds Theatre this December. It’s everyone’s favorite story of Ralphie and his quest to get a Red Ryder Air Rifle. All the delightful moments you fell in love with in the film version are brought to life, as well as a number of other surprises.

This holiday classic was first produced live on stage at the Mounds Theatre in December 2004 and was a great success. This year’s production will be even bigger and better. Create or continue a holiday tradition at the Mounds Theatre. A Christmas Story is appropriate for all ages and there is discount pricing for children.

Performances:
- Friday, December 2 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, December 3 at 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, December 4 at 2:00 p.m.
- Friday, December 9 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, December 10 at 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, December 11 at 2:00 p.m.
- Friday, December 16 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, December 18 at 2:00 p.m.

Ticket prices are $15 Adults; $10 Student/Senior; and $5 Children (12 and under). Group discounts are available.

Don’t delay! Contact the Mounds Theatre to order your tickets. Visit www.mounds theatre.org or call 651-772-2255.

The Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road.
The 1913 Re-Opening of Carver's Cave

A short note: I'm going to take a one-issue break from the chapter approach to the neighborhood's history. This will be a more informal account of events from the early 1900's. A you probably know, the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary was recently dedicated and there has been a good bit of press on the riverfront under Dayton's Bluff.

This isn't first time there has been a renewal of interest in Carver's Cave. In May, 1913, after many years of neglect, people from this community launched an effort to find and re-open the legendary landmark called Carver's Cave. In the paragraphs below is the story, at least the part that current research has revealed.

The idea of finding and reopening Carver's Cave surfaced sometime in late 1912. A December issue of the Pioneer Press reported that a group of the Mounds Park Improvement Association had appointed a committee to investigate the matter and devise ways and means for the exploration of this historic hole.

The search was intended to lead up "to building a stairway down the bluff to the entrance and then build walks inside and light the interior with electric lights so that the cave may be opened to the public and become a means of amusement and instruction."

John Colwell, the president of the association, was the prime mover in the effort. The Dayton's Bluff Commercial Club would be cooperating in the adventure. The St. Paul Dispatch reported that they would be consulting with the Minnesota Historical Society in "making Carver's Cave attractive to sightseers."

The papers did not make any reports at the time, it appears that people started actively looking for Carver's Cave in January. They did find something. Colwell jumped the gun a bit and said he had found what they had been looking for.

M.W. Luerner, age 79, was doubtful that this was the location of Carver's Cave. A long with a group named an archer Club, he had explored the site in May, 1875. He even sent in a photograph, which, if properly dated, is the oldest ever taken of the area.

His name is listed among the list of those who were working on the cave in the 1912-13. Armstrong who offered to help find the cave, had explored the site in May, 1875, and was able to say positively where it was located. "$24 was going to be driven into the bluff, but not one of them was able to point out the cave entrance in a few minutes time, but not one of them was able to point out the cave entrance in a few minutes time.

They soon found an old stone survey marker. Armstrong then ran his lines from this stone to the bluff, blazed two trees a station point to where the cave should be."

There were even letters from other parts of the country. George H. Hollister of Prescott, Wisconsin wrote that he had been in St. Paul attending school in 1873 and 1874 and often visited the cave in the late afternoons and on weekends. Rev. N. P. Kerr of Oakmont, Pennsylvania, who had been an early area botanist sent a misusing telling how he had explored the cavern with candles as illumination.

Charles W. Eddy a member of the Mounds Park Improvement Association was quoted saying "about fifty old settlers have gone down to the railroad yards, feeling confident that they would be able to point out the entrance in a few minutes time, but not one of them was able to say positively where it was located."

Some time in February, Colwell was approached by county surveyor J. H. A mrtrown who offered to help find the cave. A mrtrown had earlier done survey work for the Burlington road when they cut down some 22 feet into the bluff for their right of way in 1885. He kept his old notes and guaranteed he could properly locate Carver's Cave.

Colwell had arranged for a work force to start digging "as soon as A mrtrown has pointed out the spot." Planning ahead and being what would prove to be overly optimistic, they said that "when the cave mouth has been opened, a watch man will be stationed to keep vandals out."

The St. Paul Daily News said that A mrtrown was going to get a crew of craftsmen and rod men together as soon as the weather permitted. Because of the changes in the landscape, he was going to begin surveying a mile or two below and work northward. Sometime in mid-February, A mrtrown, with sextant and surveying tools, started running the lines up the river.

He eventually led the workers to a spot between the railroad ties and told them to dig. They soon found an old stone survey marker. A mrtrown then ran his lines from this stone to the bluff, blazed two trees a station point to where the cave should be.

Credit for the initiation of the quest was given to Colwell, who described his plans for the "opening of Carver's Cave" by using steps down the bluff from Short Street, build a roadway from Commercial Street and, if possible, continue it around the bluff to the river and beyond to connect with the Johnson Parkway.

When the cave was opened further, initial exploration began. A few days after the initial opening, the Pioneer Press reported that the project foreman Frank Colwell located the first cave to the second chamber "on a raft of logs and railroad ties. They started to put in a stairway for the second chamber when fear that rapidly draining flood could fool the Burlington railroad yards."

A few days later, the Burlington announced in what could have been a tragic accident. E h and his three male son were together in the raft, making various measurements. "Owing to the danger of explosive gas,"
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A Short History of Dayton's Bluff continued

the Pioneer Press reported, "they were unable to light a torch and progress through the cave was impossible." Suddenly, a "quick lunch of the raft" caused the son to lose his balance and fall into the water. Since he was a good swimmer, the father thought at first it was a joke when he didn't answer a call, but when the lad had hit his head against the wall of the cavern and lost consciousness, it was too late. Colwell had put up a fence and secured it with a lock.

Mr. Armstrong had placed the initial of his name on the cave. The Enterprise then launched into an attack on Armstrong who they claimed was acting as "some sort of self-constituted despot." They mention Armstrong's letter and said that "the animals displayed by Armstrong in the matter of Carver's Cave...leads us to condemn the man as unfair and simple to the degree of boyishness..." Armstrong, former collaborators were now in warring camps, fighting over the control of the riverfront turf. Supposedly because of the fear of more vandalism, Colwell had put up a fence and secured it with a lock.

Armstrong’s argument spilled over into 1914. From now on Mr. Armstrong will have to work on the land, from the Burlington Street, which was directly above the cave, to the Burlington Avenue to the city. He has been "butting into the affairs of other men and seeking to take, by force if need be, possession of Carver’s cave and may have to remove Mr. Armstrong’s lock." The Enterprise then launched into an attack on Armstrong who they claimed was acting as "some sort of self-constituted despot." The paper concluded: "If Mr. Armstrong knew the feeling he has...the ancient carvings upon the walls!" This was his right, the paper contended, since he had never done anything to dig on the Burlington Road property.

However, "Mr. Armstrong has replaced this lock with one of his own and has barricaded the mouth of the cave with large logs, and put it beyond reach. We would cooperate with the St. Paul park board in recommending the Government to take control of the riverfront turf. Supposedly because of the fear of more vandalism, Colwell had put up a fence and secured it with a lock.

A week later, the Enterprise printed a letter, high in response to a Colwell letter. "Your letter of December 30, received," it began, "in the field of fiction I would call it a masterpiece. The English is poor but the plot is fine, the villain appearing frequently and in almost the right place...

"Well, I located the cave, and after eight months delay uncovered it, did it on the presumption that it was of great historical interest...I had no idea that you owned the cave..." Armstrong replied: "Mr. Colwell never had anything to do with the cave. I have the right, the paper contended, since he had never done anything to dig on the Burlington Road property. Mr. Armstrong will have to work on the land, from the Burlington Street, which was directly above the cave, to the Burlington Avenue to the city. He has been "butting into the affairs of other men and seeking to take, by force if need be, possession of Carver’s cave and may have to remove Mr. Armstrong’s lock." The Enterprise then launched into an attack on Armstrong who they claimed was acting as "some sort of self-constituted despot." They mention Armstrong's letter and said that "the animals displayed by Armstrong in the matter of Carver’s Cave...leads us to condemn the man as unfair and simple to the degree of boyishness..." Armstrong, former collaborators were now in warring camps, fighting over the control of the riverfront turf. Supposedly because of the fear of more vandalism, Colwell had put up a fence and secured it with a lock.

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Thanksgiving Turkey Tips

by Sean Gavere

So you’ve done it. You’ve managed to roast a beautiful picture-perfect turkey. But then it dawns on you… how are you going to cut it up so everyone can eat civilized slices of roasted turkey and not go at the carcass like gang of wild animals? Here are some easy-to-follow steps to get that turkey from centerpiece perfection to neat little slices on your plate!

Let it Sit
Once the bird is removed from the oven, it should stand for 20 to 35 minutes, depending on its size. This gives the juices a chance to sink into the flesh, allowing for succulent cuts of meat. Before you begin carving, have a warm serving platter ready and waiting for all the juicy white and dark meat you’ll soon be slicing and digging into.

Remove the Legs
Arrange the turkey, breast side up, on a cutting board. Steady the turkey with a carving fork. Using a sharp knife, slice through the meat between the breast and the leg. Next, using a large knife as an aid, press the thigh outward to find the hip joint. Slice down through the joint and remove the leg. Cut between the thigh bone and drumstick bone to divide the leg into one thigh piece and one drumstick. To carve the drumstick, steady it with a carving fork and cut a thick slice of meat from one side, along the bone. Next, turn the drumstick over so that the cut side faces down. Cut off another thick slice of meat. Repeat, turning the drumstick onto a flat side and cutting off meat, carving a total of four thick slices. To slice the thigh, place it flat side down on a cutting board. Steady the thigh with a carving fork. With a knife, cut parallel to the bone and slice off the meat. Be sure to place all the cuts on the warmed serving platter as you work.

Remove the Wings
Before you carve the breast, the wings must be removed. Slice diagonally down through the edge of the breast toward the wing. Using a knife as an aid, press the wing out to find the shoulder joint; cut through the joint and remove the wing. Place the wing on the serving platter as is.

Carve the Breast
To carve the breast meat, hold the back of the carving fork against the breastbone. Starting parallel to the breastbone, slice diagonally through the meat. Lift off each slice, holding it between the knife and fork, and place on the warm serving platter. Continue until you have carved all the meat on one side of the breast. Repeat, carving the other side of breast.

Wearing Gloves?
This seems to be a common dilemma is most households, so here are a few things to do with leftovers:

Turkey Tetrazzini

INGREDIENTS:
- 8 ounces angel hair pasta
- 2/3 cup sliced onion
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon white pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon poultry seasoning
- 1/4 teaspoon ground mustard
- 2 cups milk
- 1 cup shredded sharp Cheddar
- 2 tablespoons chopped pimentos
- 4.5 ounce can sliced mushroom
- 1 lb. cooked turkey, chopped

DIRECTIONS:
1) Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil and add pasta and cook until al dente, drain.
2) In a medium saucepan, cook and stir chicken in butter until meat is tender. Blend in flour and seasonings. Remove from heat. Gradually stir in milk; stir until mixture thickens. Add 2/3 cup cheese and stir until cheese melts. Stir in undrained mushrooms to cheese sauce.
3) Place layer of pasta in 12 x 8 inch baking dish. Cover with layer of turkey, and top layer of cheese sauce. Repeat the layers. Sprinkle remaining 1/3 cup cheese over top.
4) Bake at 400 degrees for about 25 minutes.

Dayton’s Bluff Entrepreneur Class

by Gabriel Garbow

For years, the Dayton’s Bluff District 4 Community Council has hosted a Micro Entrepreneur Training Program. The program is designed to help prospective business people in the neighborhood start up a new business or improve their existing business. The process begins with an application, then applicants are interviewed and finally twelve are offered spaces in the program. The course - eight classes and at least two one-on-one consultations – is offered twice per year. Classes meet for two hours every Wednesday night for eight weeks. Each week, instructor Dale White commands the attention of an eager audience, dry-erase markers in hand and jokes at the ready.

Instructor Dale White highlights a figure for his class of entrepreneurs.

Halloween Safety For Kids

Halloween is fast approaching! Everyone is busy decorating their houses, pumpkins, and finding the perfect kid’s Halloween costume. The excitement of children and adults at this time of year sometimes makes us forget to be careful. Here are some helpful tips as you plan your Halloween festivities:

Costume safety: Make sure that costumes are fireproof and that the eye holes are large enough for good peripheral vision. If your child carries a prop such as a plastic knife or pitchfork make sure that the tip is flexible and/or smooth enough not to cause an injury.

Pumpkin Displays: If you have carved pumpkins set out on your deck, porch or stairs with candles in them, carved pumpkins set out on your deck, porch or stairs with candles in them, too much candle wax could catch fire.

Carving Pumpkins: Use caution when your child wants to help with the pumpkin carving. Small children shouldn’t be allowed to use a sharp knife. There are many kits available that come with tiny saws that work better than knives and are safer, although you can be cut by them as well. It’s best to let the kids clean out the pumpkin and draw a face on it, which you can carve for them.

Too Much Candy: Treat your kids to a Halloween-themed dinner. This will make them less likely to eat the candy they collect while out trick-or-treating. It will also give you a chance to inspect what they have brought home for safety reasons.

Basic Safety: Teach your kids basic everyday safety, such as not getting into cars or talking to strangers, look both ways before crossing the street and crossing when the lights tell you to. This will help make them safer when they are out trick-or-treating.

Have fun! Happy Halloween!
Building a Close-Knit Community
by Jamie L. Smith

When I purchased my home in Dayton's Bluff three years ago, some friends and family members expressed surprise and fear at my choice of location. They saw the area as one riddled with crime, a disproportionate share of rental housing and lacking in cool places to go out to eat, shop or grab a cup of coffee on a Saturday morning. What I saw a neighborhood in transition. I saw a place where people were starting to spend money fixing up their homes, violent crime was actually decreasing and cool little coffee shops were hiding off the main streets.

When Sergeant Vick was killed two blocks from my house, the pressure from my family to sell out and move increased. But I’ve stayed. This is my neighborhood and it’s filled with good people and I feel that I have a responsibility to it.

I feel that my decision to purchase a home in this neighborhood came with an important responsibility to help make this neighborhood a good place to live. Since moving in, I’ve made it a point to get to know who my neighbors are. In addition to introducing myself and extending a handshake in welcome when someone new moves in, I joined the Margaret Recreation Center Block Club and volunteer there teaching knitting one night a week.

It’s a funny story how the knitting class came to be. At one of our monthly MRC Block Club meetings in fall of 2004, Kate Ross, the director of the center, lamented the fact that there was not a lot of programming at the Center for the many young girls who spend their after school hours there several nights a week. She described for us how, due to city budget issues, she was unable to provide enough paid staff and materials to offer classes geared toward the girls. Because many of the kids who spend time at the Center come from low income families, Kate often does not charge them fees to participate in programming. The kids from the area simply do not come from households where there is much left over when the family bills are paid.

When Kate told us that the girls would just hang out on the basketball court and watch the boys play, my friend (and fellow Block Club member) Carey Nadeau and I knew we had to do something. Since we recently got swept up in the knitting craze taking the entire nation by storm, we volunteered to teach a beginning knitting class for the girls (Chicks with Sticks) at the recreation center one night a week. It was a win-win situation: we would be contributing to the neighborhood’s well-being, Kate would have two extra sets of adult eyes at the recreation center and the girls would make some new friends and learn the craft of knitting.

Carey and I solicited donations from our own little knitting circles and tried to figure out how we, just a couple of beginning knitters ourselves, would teach precarious girls how to maneuver the needles and yarn into a scarf. Our knitting friends surprised us with their generosity when we told them what we were doing. We collected boxes and boxes of yarn in every different color imaginable. We built up a small arsenal of knitting needles. And we got some space at the recreation center set aside for us.

Once those other details were in place, Carey and I sat down and plotted out our eight weeks worth of lesson plans. We would begin with introductions. We would all wear nametags I made that said, “Cool Chicks Introduce Themselves” and we’d all share why we wanted to learn how to knit. From there, we’d all make a set of chopstick needles to practice with and then we’d get to the knitty-gritty of teaching the girls how to cast on stitches and go from there.

From the very first night, Carey and I learned that we had to be flexible. Right off the bat, we had to ditch our catchy little Chicks with Sticks name. A little boy came and said that wanted to learn how to knit. Carey and I just couldn’t say no to the kids finish their projects by the end of the eight weeks. We slowly realized that what really mattered is that we go at a pace that works for the kids and that they get the attention from us that they need. By the time the eight week class finished, we had a couple kids who were about half finished with their scarves and several more who couldn’t wait for the next class.

Since the kids were at different skill levels and we don’t have the same exact kids every single week, we weren’t able to stick to our neatly typed lesson plans. At first, Carey and I were a little frustrated by that. We wanted to stay organized and see the kids finish their projects by the end of the eight weeks. We slowly realized that what really mattered is that we go at a pace that works for the kids and that they get the attention from us that they need. By the time the eight week class finished, we had a couple kids who were about half finished with their scarves and several more who couldn’t wait for the next class.

wanted to learn and be a part of the group.

Now that winter is around the corner and Carey and I are in the mood to knit again, it’s time to begin knitting class once more. In order to fulfill the goal of providing more programming geared towards girls, the knitting class this fall will be limited to kids only. If there are enough boys who show an interest, we will consider adding another night at some point. Girl’s Knit Night In will be on Monday evenings from 6:30pm until 8:30pm at the Margaret Recreation Center beginning November 7, 2005 through January 30, 2006.

If you are interested in learning more about the knitting class at the Recreation Center or are interested in teaching a class of your own on a subject of interest to you, please call Kate Ross at 651-298-5719 or email her at kate.ross@ci.stpaul.mn.us for information.

If you are interested in joining the Margaret Center Block Club, please call Kate Nadeau at 651-206-9114 or email her at kam725@earthlink.net or call Kamy Eide at 651-774-1059. We’d love to see you at the next meeting on November 2, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. at the Margaret Recreation Center.

If you have any comments or stories about knitting you’d like to share, please feel free to email me at stpaugirl76@yahoo.com.
A new business came to Dayton’s Bluff on September 29th when “Fish Man” Dan Monson opened Earl Street Pet. It’s located at 369 Earl St. near Hudson Road across the street from Leo’s Chow Mein.

Dan is no stranger to Dayton’s Bluff. He is actually returning to his old neighborhood after wandering around the Twin Cities and the world for many years, having grown up on Wilson Ave. just a few blocks from his store’s location. After graduating from Harding High School in 1969, he spent four years with the Navy in the submarine service, which could explain his interest in fish.

He spent four years with the Navy in the submarine service, which could explain his interest in fish. He is also a past president of the Minnesota Aquarium Society. Visiting Earl Street Pet is like going to the zoo. It contains all kinds of fish, reptiles, amphibians and birds that Dan will gladly show to visitors. As Dan’s nickname implies, the focus of his store is on fish with about 75% of his stock being of the swimming variety. These include a huge selection of bettas, as well as angelfish, tiger and rosy barbs, neon and black tetras, Oscars, swordtails, guppies, bala and albino rainbow sharks, zebra danios, gold algae eaters, pink kissing gourami and many more varieties that are too numerous to mention and spell checker doesn’t recognize. Besides selling fish, Dan also takes trade-ins from private breeders.

The reptile and amphibian section contains animals that range from the fairly commonplace to the exotic. These include iguanas, leopard geckos, bearded dragons, Eastern collared lizards, blue-tongued skinks, pacman frogs, red-eared turtles and an incredible Mali Uromastyx.

One thing Dan wants to make clear is that he doesn’t handle snakes, either personally or in his store. Many people like them, he explains, but he isn’t one of them and they have a tendency to scare off some customers. The fine-feathered friends division will soon include, if they haven’t all arrived already, parakeets, finches, canaries, lovebirds, small and large parrots, and parakeets.

This menagerie will be joined in the near future by hermit crabs and probably mice and hamsters. Earl Street Pet won’t be selling dogs or cats because of the size of the store. They require too much space and make much more of a mess than say, for example, a guppys.

Earl Street Pet has much more than just animals. It carries every conceivable fish-related item you could imagine from aquariums and aquarium accessories to fish food and fish books. Of course other kinds of pets aren’t forgotten. There are also plenty of things for your birds, reptiles, amphibians and various other two-, four- or multi-legged friends. Dan has developed specialty bird seed mixes for a different types of birds and is also working on a special Earl Street Pet brand of dog food. In the meantime he carries regular doggie treats.

Dan likes to say, “Beginners Start Here.” He offers a free fish starter kit to new fish owners and loves to talk about fish whether it’s one-on-one or to many people at a time. He is always available to give lectures and demonstrations to classes, Scout troops or to any other group.

Earl Streets Pets is open seven days a week: Monday – Friday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday noon until 3 p.m. Drop in anytime or give Fish Man Dan a call at 651-778-2323.

Don’t miss Earl Streets Pets Grand Opening Sale on November 11, 12 and 13. There will be door prizes and of course plenty of animals to look at and purchase.

Pet Store Opens on Earl Street

by Greg Cosimini

“Where are you, Dayton’s Bluff?”

The Mounds Theatre has been open for two years and during that time many activities have been held in the building. There have been plays, movies, concerts, dances and dance presentations, lectures, variety shows, magic shows, a mime festival, and a visit by two real live Munchkins.

People attending these events have come from all over the Twin Cities and as far away as Wisconsin but very few from the Dayton’s Bluff area. It’s strange that some of the far away folks will attend the Mounds Theatre but others won’t even walk over.

We wish to thank those loyal residents of the neighborhood who do visit the Mounds Theatre regularly and ask the others, where are you?

Why don’t you come to the Mounds Theatre? Do you want to see different types of entertainment? Is the cost too high, even though some events cost $5 or less? Do you have a difficult time finding out what is playing?

We would like to hear from you. Please let us know your thoughts by calling 651-772-2253, writing to the Mounds Theatre at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106, or email us at greg@moundsdtheatre.org.

We look forward to hearing from you, or better yet, seeing you in person at our next event.

--Greg Cosimini, Mounds Theatre